

With Appendix
STAPLETON

Urban District Council.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT.

1896.

BRISTOL :
RICHARDS & STONE, PRINTERS AND STATIONERS,
24 BRIDGE STREET.
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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour and pleasure of submitting to you my Eleventh Annual Report of the births and deaths, as well as of the sanitary condition of the district generally.

The population, estimated to the end of last June, is 17,481, and the acreage 2554.

The Public Institutions—2 Workhouses and the Asylum—have 2981 inmates, so that the population outside of these is 14,500.

The births numbered 466, compared with 480 for 1895, and 445 for 1894; and gives a rate of 26·65 per 1000 of the population for the year.

The average rate for the past 10 years was 27·32. In Bristol, and in the 33 large towns of England and Wales, the rate was 27·8 and 31·3 respectively.

The deaths numbered 179, compared with 204 in the previous year, and 188 in 1894, and is equal to a rate of 12·34 per 1000. This is the lowest rate recorded in the district. The average rate for the past 10 years was 14·91. The Bristol rate for 1896 was 16·8, and in the large towns, 19·6.

I do not receive the death returns from the Workhouses or Asylum (except those of Stapleton people who die in Barton Regis Workhouse), and the death-rate is always calculated from the population outside these institutions.

The Zymotic death-rate was 1·51, compared with 1·2 for 1895, and in Bristol and the 33 large towns the rate was 1·8 and 2·8 respectively.

Uncertified deaths numbered 4, compared with 5 for 1895. 15 inquests were held, in 1895 there were 23. Accidents or violence caused 4 deaths, whereas they resulted in 19 deaths in 1895. 5 deaths were registered of Stapleton people who died in the Workhouses, and 2 paupers from the City Workhouse died suddenly outside the Institution.

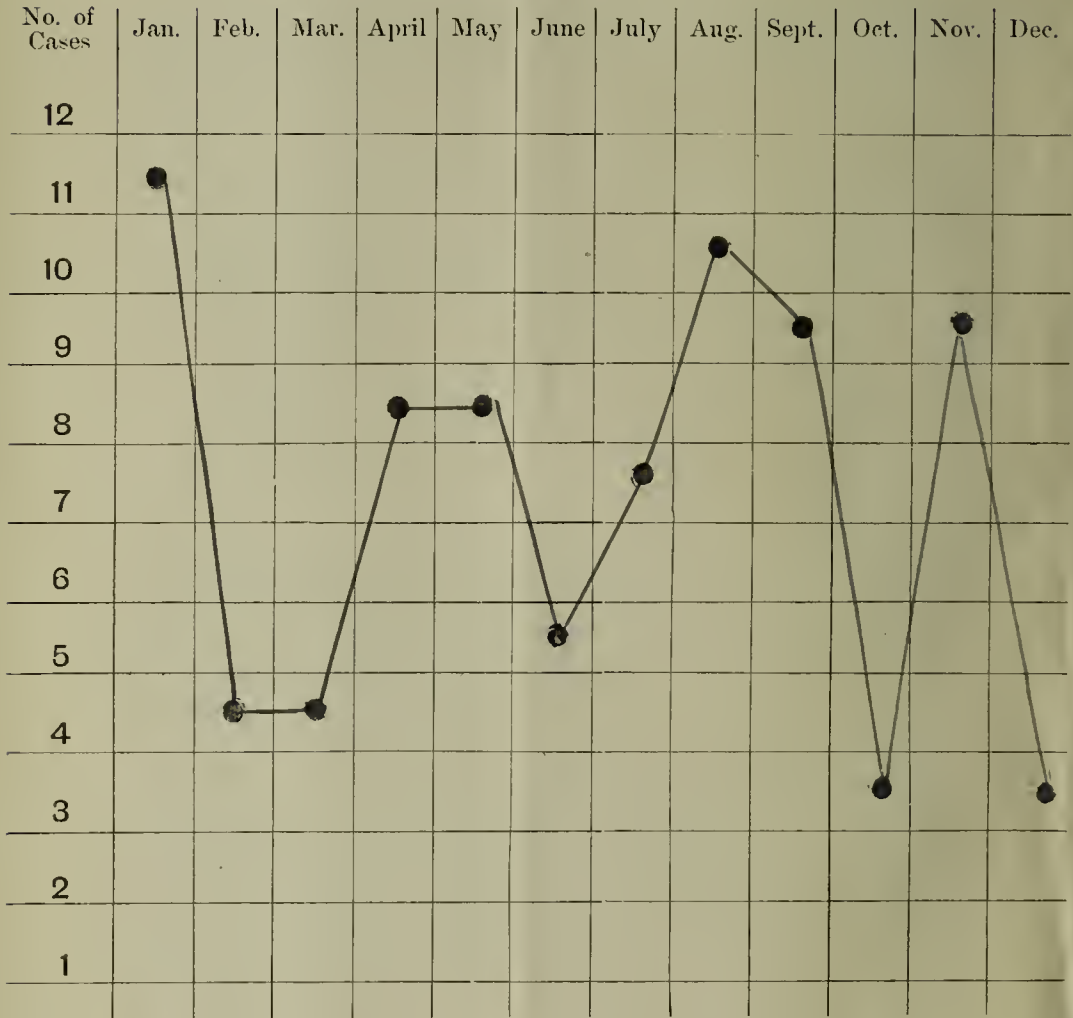
The infant mortality per 1000 births was 128, and for the previous year, 125. In Bristol and the large towns it was 138 and 168 respectively.

The ages at which death occurred were :—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	60
Over 1 year, but under 5 years	...	...	...	...	16
„ 5 years	„	15	„	...	6
„ 15 „	„	25	„	...	7
„ 25 „	„	65	„	...	53
„ 65 „	...	...	...	...	37
Total					179

There were 144 cases of Infectious disease notified, compared with 131 for the previous year, but 38 of these were from the Public Institutions—Barton Regis, 26, the City Workhouse, 8, and the Asylum, 4.

Smallpox. 7 cases were notified, 3 from Barton Regis Workhouse, and 4 from the City Workhouse. The first case was one of several that broke out in Gloucester Lane, Bristol, in February. It was sent to Barton Regis Workhouse without being recognised ; but as soon as the case was made out and notified, I had it at once removed to your Hospital at Stapleton. Two cases were then reported from the City Workhouse in March, and then 2 more cases in April, and 2 from Barton Regis. There did not seem to be



any connecting link between the Barton Regis cases, and they were all isolated in your Hospital, and the disease did not spread.

Scarlet Fever notifications numbered 80, compared with 42 for 1895. 13 were from Barton Regis, 1 from the City Workhouse, and 1 from the Asylum. No deaths occurred, showing the mild character of the outbreak; and there were only 2 in the previous year. The disease has prevailed extensively in Bristol and the neighbourhood since 1894, and as I remarked in my last Annual Report—"Until proper arrangements are made in all the Districts to thoroughly isolate the cases, we cannot hope to be free from it." Enquiries were in every instance made as to the source of infection—milk supply, school influence, sanitary condition of the premises, &c. In 52 cases the drains, &c., were described as good, in 3 as fair, and in 7 as bad. In 19 cases the patient was infected from previous cases in the family—the result of imperfect isolation.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup caused 4 deaths, and the cases notified numbered 30, compared with 7 and 56 respectively for 1895. About a fourth of the fresh cases occurred in January, and were really a continuation of the outbreak of the previous year, the history of which you will remember.

In 14 cases the drains are described as good, in 6 as fair or doubtful, and in 5 as bad. Infection from previous cases was traced in 4 instances, and damp walls, pigs and fowls too near the house, so as to be a nuisance, were described as at least a predisposing cause of *Diphtheria*. 3 cats were so seriously suspected of conveying the infection, that they were killed and examined. 2 of them were consumptive,

and the third had a slight affection of the throat: I was enabled to have this examined in the Baeteriological Department of the Bristol Public Health Offices, through the kindness of Dr. Dowson, but none of the typical organisms of Diphtheria could be found.

Erysipelas notifications numbered 18, of which 13 were from the Public Institutions. In 1895 the numbers were 20 and 6 respectively. There were no deaths. In 2 instances the drains were bad, in 1 doubtful, and in 3 good.

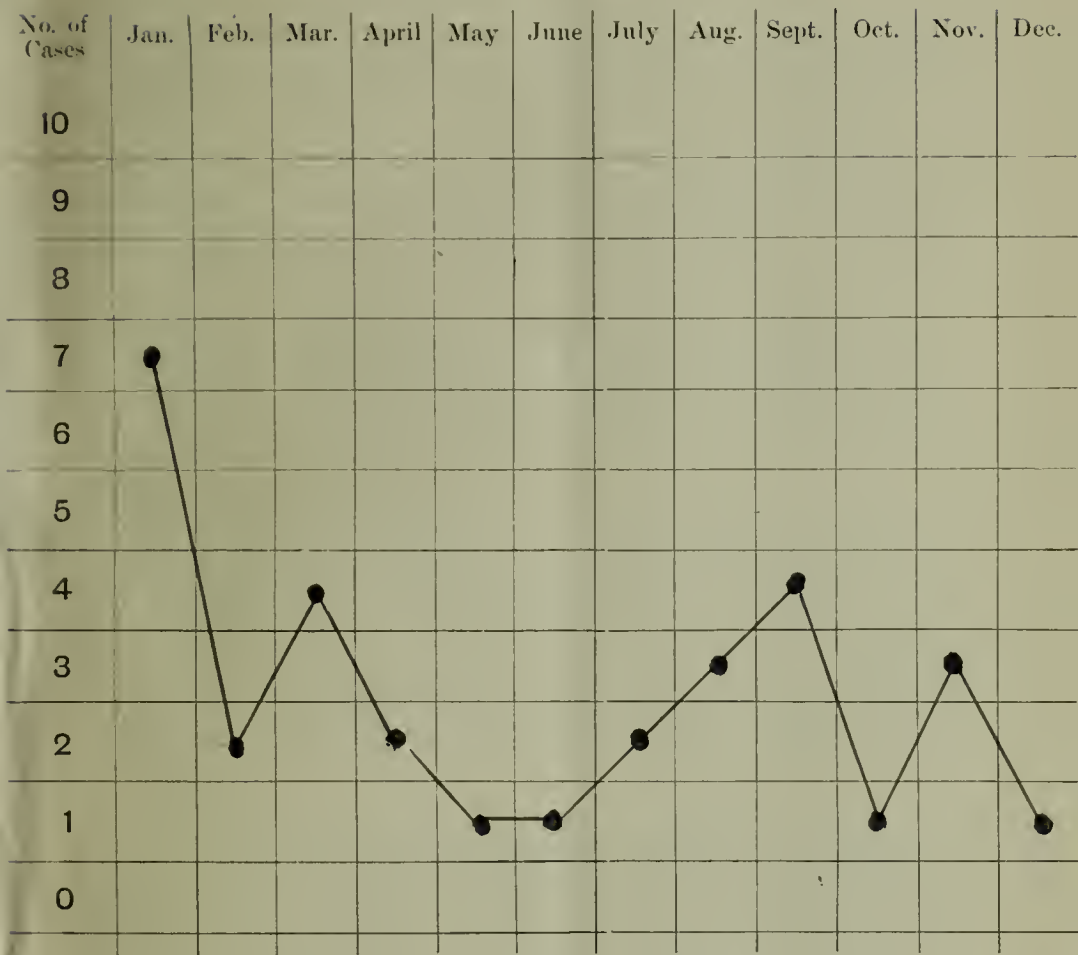
Enteric Fever. 8 fresh cases were notified, 3 being from the Institutions. There were 2 deaths. Drains were—good, 2, fair, 2, and bad, 1. In one case your sewer was blamed, and on inspection there was certainly a very serious nuisance.

Measles caused 2 deaths, compared with 4 for the previous year. There were not a great number of cases throughout the year, although in September it threatened to assume epidemic form.

Whooping Cough caused 3 deaths, and 1 death was registered from *Influenza*. *Diarrhoea and Dysentery* caused 11 deaths, 10 being infants. There were only 2 in the previous year.

Phthisis caused 15 deaths; *Respiratory diseases*, 30; and *Heart disease*, 22. The numbers for 1895 were 17, 29, and 29 respectively.

Sewer Works during the year. The sewer on Stapleton Road, Eastville, for a distance of 344 yards, was taken up and relaid, with a suitable fall. At the same time several houses were connected therewith. You will remember that



the necessity for this reconstruction was shown in my last Annual Report. Ashley Down, and a large number of new houses in Wee Lane, have been connected with the new sewer, and it is hoped, that with the completion of the syphon under the River Frome, that the whole system will shortly be in working order.*

In Grove Road the sewer was relaid for a considerable part of its length, with a good fall, and at such a depth as enabled the houses in Grove Avenue to be connected. A constant and serious nuisance was thereby ended, as these houses drained into cesspools, which overflowed, and the sewage accumulated in a most offensive ditch.

I trust that one of the first works to be taken in hand during 1897 will be the reconstruction of the sewer in Stapleton. You will then have, I believe, a sewer system as complete as anyone could wish for.

House to house inspection. I have taken a considerable part in this work, which is now about completed. Of course, a good deal of time is required for this work, but it is the results of it that runs away with most of the time—the notices, and giving oversight to the work of reconstruction. 1068 houses were inspected during the year, and 106 notices were served.

In company with your Assistant Inspector, I visited the Dairies, Cowsheds, Milk-shops, Bakehouses, and Slaughter-houses, and can report a continued improvement all round. A hint or suggestion is generally sufficient to secure an improvement where we deem it desirable that an alteration

* The Syphon is now finished, and the whole scheme completed. All the houses that drained into the Bristol sewer at Ashley Down have been cut off, and the drains connected with our system.

should be made. Only in one instance has it been necessary to issue a notice for the reconstruction and drainage of a Cowshed.

Water. A number of samples of water have been examined, with the result that notices were served to close 20 wells, and lay on a wholesome supply to 41 houses. 11 of these notices have not yet been complied with, and remain to be disposed of by the General Purposes Committee. In one case the notice was partly complied with: the well supplied 8 houses, Company's water was laid on for 6, but 2 are still supplied by water of the most disgusting description.

Notices were served requiring the emptying of cesspools and connecting with the sewer in 31 houses. Offensive deposits and filthy premises required 6 notices, and 2 notices were served where animals were kept so as to be a nuisance.

WILLIAM BROWN, M.D.,

January 30th, 1897.

Medical Officer.

[A]

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1896 in the STAPLETON URBAN DISTRICT, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. <i>(Columns for Population and Births are in Table B).</i> <i>(a)</i>	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																					
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.
													Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal													
<i>(b)</i>	<i>(c)</i>	<i>(d)</i>	<i>(e)</i>	<i>(f)</i>	<i>(g)</i>	<i>(h)</i>	<i>(i)</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
STAPLETON URBAN DISTRICT	179	60	16	6	7	53	37	Under 5 5 upwds.			1 2	1		2					2	3	10 1		1 14	16 14	3 19		1 3	36 49	74 105	
TOTALS	179	60	16	6	7	53	37	Under 5 5 upwds.			1 2	1		2					2	3	10 1		1 14	16 14	3 19		1 3	36 49	74 105	

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

[illegible]

[B]

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the Year 1896, in the STAPLETON URBAN DISTRICT; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

[illegible]



